

NUWRO Organizers Push For Global Workers' Union

By PEG STOMIEROWSKI

A corps of people in the Triple Cities who describe their function as "labor union organizers of sorts" do not wish to discuss job layoffs and cutbacks hitting Binghamton industries.

"We try always to talk in terms of the greater situation," said their guest, pianist Christine Berl, who plays benefits for the National Caucus of Labor Committees and is concerned about the "creative process."

She means they think of worker power globally, and the North American Unemployed and Welfare Rights Organization (NUWRO) is the worldwide workers' union they promote.

Ms. Berl was visiting Binghamton to play a Beethoven recital at State University at Binghamton. She joined Gerald Pechenuk, a student, and Henry Weinfield, an instructor of English and poetry at SUAB, at Pechenuk's home in Johnson City to discuss their views.

A person like President Nixon could not administer a depression, they said, explaining why they say the move to impeach Nixon is part of a plot of the most advanced capitalists.

THE CAUCUS is the organization that has blamed the CIA for instigating the Hearst kidnaping, claiming the Symbionese Liberation Army is a front group and that the CIA is setting the stage for a fascist take-over in the United States.

"Our mothers ask us whether we're associated with the Symbionese," Ms. Berl said, smiling.

It also blames CIA set-ups for the recent truckers' slowdown and the "orchestrated goonery" on the highways, and blames former New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller for the fuel shortage, among other things.

An article in a recent issue of New Solidarity, the caucus newspaper, charged that "William (Simple) Simon's" energy office in Washington has rationing coupons all ready to go, but "is merely biding time until crazy-quilt rationing schemes like those in New Jersey and New York, and endless hours in line bring the cop in every worker up to the fore."

"Then he'll not only accept rationing — he'll shoot his neighbor to enforce it," the article said.

"The police become the heroes as they arrest violators of Rocky's gas lines," it said.

Rockefeller is on their super-enemy list.

The Rockefeller-Mellon group directly controls Texaco, Standard Oil, (of New Jersey, Indiana, Ohio, California), Continental British Petroleum, Gulf and Mobil, accounting for 48.99 per cent of the total gasoline distributed," New Solidarity reported.

"IN A PERIOD of depression like we're in, people start asking questions," said Pechenuk, 21, and a senior history major at SUAB.

The National Caucus plans to be on hand for the collapse of American capitalism within two years.

"The rage that people feel should not be taken out on

their wife, husband, or gas station man, but on the people who are really responsible," Pechenuk said.

"NUWRO develops its members to take full responsibility for the world economy and the future of the human race," said Pechenuk.

Contacts in local organizations and industries are marked on a chart hanging on the wall in Pechenuk's living room. Through them, the group attempts to relay the latest briefings about the labor situation internationally, as the NUWRO sees it.

A group in New York City gathers "intelligence" from all its labor committees here and abroad and reads 50 foreign newspapers to skim for news not reported in the American press, Pechenuk said.

For instance, he added, there was no mention in the New York Times of a CIA buildup in Britain, but it was reported in the London Times. A brief war between Iran and Iraq was reported for only one day in the New York Times, "representing an attempt by oil interests to get Iraq to submit to the oil embargo," he added.

Although they do not discourage union work at a local level, Pechenuk said the group has "no choice but to look beyond the collapse of the trade unions," which he said are polarized along age, race and other lines.

"If people want to eat ... they're going to have to begin thinking about what's going on," added Weinfield. He said the only group doing "significant action — the Communist party — succumbed a long time ago."

"Whether Broome County gets enough oil for its cars is not going to be determined here," Pechenuk said. "Our groceries won't be determined by anything Edwin Crawford says."

THEY ENVISION worldwide socialism based on Leon Trotsky's concepts, which are not the same concepts that exist now in the Soviet Union, they said.

"I really feel that without an intellectual revolution, there can be no political revolution," said Ms. Berl. "The reason people can't listen to Beethoven is that there is no relationship in their lives corresponding to the intensity of it," she said.

Her purpose as a revolutionary is to bring that about, she added. Any artist is potentially a revolutionary, said Ms. Berl.

She said she is much more conscious now of the creative process than she was when she was "primarily involved in being an artist" without the political commitment.

Weinfield agreed that his love — poetry — also is important in a revolutionary sense, because it can communicate emotion intensely.